

DRAFT NOTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF BRACKLEY TOWN
COUNCIL HELD IN THE LOWER HALL, TOWN HALL, BRACKLEY ON
MONDAY 12TH MARCH 2007 at 7.30 pm

Present: The Worshipful the Town Mayor (Councillor P Joyce)
Councillors C S Billingham, K D Bonner-Dunham, K Dixon,
T D Hayward, C G Land, W B Stimpson and P M Titchener .
Also: County Councillor R Sawbridge, County Councillor A Grant.

Apologies: Mrs Jean Morgan, Chief Executive SNC, Mr P Gould, Chief Executive
NCC, Councillors P J Broomfield and C O Cartmell

The TOWN MAYOR advised that a Meeting had been arranged on Tuesday 27th
March 2007 at the Town Hall 4pm–7pm when McLennan Architects would be
available to talk to the public about the Co-op development.

A survey was also being carried out throughout the Town about the car parking.
Questionnaires were available and the public were asked to complete these and return
them to the Town Hall.

The TOWN MAYOR then went on to advise that the Annual Accounts for the
Brackley Hospital Trust, Brackley United Feoffee Charity and Sir Thomas Crewe's
Almshouses were available in the Office for inspection.

Minutes of last year's Meeting had been circulated and these were taken as read.
Introduction of the top table was then undertaken. Guests were SERGEANT TIM
PEARSON, Northamptonshire Police and MR CALVIN BELL, Executive Director
South Northamptonshire Council.

Questions were invited from the public:

MR FINLAYSON, St Annes Close expressed his concerns about a number of roads
and sewers on numerous developments around the Town that had still not been
adopted. This had been an ongoing problem for a considerable time and he had been
told this would be sorted by Christmas 2004. Despite assistance from the Town
Council and the press the problem was still ongoing. COUNCILLOR SAWBRIDGE
said he had made investigations at County Council but he would continue to make
further enquiries.

MS CAROLINE GILBART, Bridge Street asked what was happening with the hotel
development in Oxford Road. She said this was a complete eyesore at one of the
main entrances to the Town. Mrs Gilbert was advised that the site had been visited by
officers from South Northamptonshire Council and they had advised that as there was
no structural problems nothing further could be done at this stage. Contact had been
made with Mr A Reynard, owner of the development, and he had advised that by the
Spring/Summer something would be happening with the site. COUNCILLOR
STIMPSON said that the cladding on the building had been coming off and blowing
across the dual carriageway. MR CALVIN BELL agreed to take this up with officers
at South Northamptonshire Council and ask them to re-visit the site.

MR MIKE LAKE. Westminster Croft commented on the stench from the Faccenda factory. The TOWN MAYOR advised that meetings had been held with representatives from the factory and the Town Council had been advised that new stacks would be erected next month and it was hoped that this would solve the problem. The public was asked to report any problems to the Town Hall.

MS CAROLINE GILBART, Bridge Street asked if anything could be done about the hazardous crossing of the A43 to Evenley. She commented that lorries had overturned on the roundabout in the past. COUNCILLOR SAWBRIDGE said he would take this matter up at County Council.

MR ARMISTEAD, Banbury Road asked if the Police had any comments on the proposed eyesore on the Co-op site. SERGEANT PEARSON said he had not had an opportunity to see the plans but he would do this to see if there were any particular concerns.

MRS MAGGIE WRIGHT, Banbury Road expressed concern about the Banbury Road/Bridge Street junction. Visibility was also hindered by cars which parked on the footway outside the RSPCA shop on the corner of Banbury Road. COUNCILLOR BILLINGHAM confirmed that the priority at this junction had been changed and attempts had been made in the past to have traffic lights or a roundabout erected, without success. COUNCILLOR BONNER-DUNHAM advised that this had been part of Brackley Vision's programme but lack of funding precluded any work being undertaken. This, however, could still be part of the future tasks. SERGEANT PEARSON agreed that the Police would look at the vehicles parked on the footway.

MRS JOAN VINCENT, 44 Banbury Road commented because of the increase in volume of traffic on Banbury Road, cars were now 'playing chicken', simply because they did not want to give way to traffic coming in the opposite direction. She also said that cars appeared to be travelling faster and she asked if a 20mph speed limit could be imposed. Mention was made of a vehicle, which had been reported to the Police, which had been abandoned for 12 months. Because it was displaying an up-to-date tax disc this could not be moved. SERGEANT PEARSON confirmed this. He also said that traffic calming may be a possibility for Banbury Road but pointed out that this was a County Council matter. COUNCILLOR BILLINGHAM commented that all the roads near schools would benefit from a 20mph zoned area, like the one in Pavillons Way near Bracklenleas School, and it would be useful if the Police and County Council could take this up. MRS LINDSAY DODDS, Martial Daire Boulevard said that motorists now avoided Pavillons Way because of the 20mph limit and instead used Martial Daire Boulevard. MR FINLAYSON commented that the 20mph limit was not observed.

JANE COOK, Manor Road commented that Manor Road was a complete nightmare with traffic, and cars were even mounting the footpath to get through. The TOWN MAYOR said that a traffic survey was being undertaken.

JULIE BRENNAN said that cars speeded down Pavillons Way between the Chequered Flag and the bottom of Humphries Drive during the early and late evening. SERGEANT PEARSON said that there was a community programme which trains people to use the speed guns and he suggested Ms Brennan writes to enquire about this.

The TOWN MAYOR introduced MR ANDY HOPKINSON from the Fire Service who has the responsibility for the western part of the County. Mr Hopkins advised that the land near the Police Station in Oxford Road has been purchased 16 years ago and £750,000 had been secured last year to fund the building of a new Fire Station. A further bid for £150,000 had been submitted and he was confident that this was 'in the bag'. A Project Manager had been appointed in December and an architect had been appointed about 4 weeks ago. The Project Manager was meeting with the Highways Department tomorrow. Mr HOPKINSON said the Fire Service wished to exit directly on to Oxford Road and until that was agreed, the layout of the site could not be decided. It was hoped to have a detailed planning application by the beginning of April and a public meeting would be held. He also said there had been provision to include a Young Fire Fighter Unit in the development. Building work would commence in August. MRS CAROLINE GILBART asked about noise from sirens. MR HOPKINSON said that sirens were mainly used during the day and consideration was always given to residential areas. A lady who lived near the present Fire Station said she had never been disturbed by sirens.

MRS LINDSAY DODDS, Martial Daire Boulevard asked if the present Fire Station could be incorporated into the Park as a further play facility and maybe some toilets could be provided for the betterment of the Town. The TOWN MAYOR said the Town Council would be speaking to the National Trust nearer the time.

MR ROBERT EVANS, Banbury Road asked if South Northamptonshire Council had agreed to defer the decision on the Co-op development until after the meeting on the 27th March with the architects. COUNCILLOR BILLINGHAM said this was classed as a major application and there was 13 weeks allowed for determination. MR FOLEY, Banbury Road commented on an article in a local newspaper which stated that there were 9 paragraphs in favour of the development and only two against. It said that Councillors had been consulted on this and he wanted to know which Councillors. The TOWN MAYOR said that there had been talks and there had been a number of people at the public question time session at the last Council Meeting and the Council has submitted its objection to the application.

MRS LINDSAY DODDS, Martial Daire Boulevard said that the Co-op development was a huge issue and South Northamptonshire Council and County Council did not understand how serious the matter was. There would be no support for this development from the people in the Town. She said that the parking was horrendous and the people who worked in the town had nowhere else to park but in the town centre, which meant that there was no parking for potential shoppers and the development would kill the Town. There was already traffic congestion in Manor Road and Banbury Road and if the development went ahead the whole town would be gridlocked. She questioned how the application had got so far when there was so much opposition to it. COUNCILLOR BILLINGHAM commented that anyone could

apply for planning permission. MR CALVIN BELL confirmed that it was classed as a major development and gave assurance that it would be considered in great detail. He said the more individual comments the better but this could be done collectively. MRS DODDS asked what the District Council's views were. MR BELL said he couldn't comment at the moment. MRS DODDS asked how the application had got this far considering the objections raised to it. MR EVANS, Banbury Road commented that there were two applications and expressed concern that people may only comment on the one. COUNCILLOR BILLINGHAM said that the applications were connected. MRS OWENS, Banbury Road asked why only houses up to No.37 (and not beyond) had received notification about the application. MR BELL said that the distribution was determined by defined distances. MR ADAM WOOD, Johnson Avenue commented that the development affected the whole town. COUNCILLOR STIMPSON said that the application decision was just the first step in a battle because if it was turned down the developers would go to appeal. He was adamant that it should be turned down because it adversely affected the whole town and the environment around it. MRS MCDONALD, Manor Road said that at the last meeting with McLennan Architects they stated that if the people were against the proposal it would not happen and this fact was minuted.

POLLY KEMPSON, Manor Road was concerned that her view was going to be dramatically changed. At the moment she had a feeling of light and space and this was going to change. MRS JUDY WELLS, Banbury Road asked if all the letters submitted would be considered and was given an assurance that they would. MS CAROLINE GILBART asked if the Council would consider compulsorily purchasing any spare land for car parking. MR BELL said that it was unlikely that South Northamptonshire Council would consider this. MR BOB REID, Banbury Road asked how far does Mr Bell feel it is possible to change anything. MR BELL responded that the officer would consider all the guidance procedures and the relevant statutory issues which relate. Applications have been refused in the past and SNC had a good record of appeal outcomes.

MRS JEAN WOOD, Johnson Avenue said that the paths in St James Lake required attention as there was a problem with flooding. She said it would be a simple matter to put in proper drainage. The TOWN MAYOR responded that there were volunteers who kept the paths clear and there were improvements planned and the wet areas would be looked at. He said the area was being surveyed on a regular basis. MR ADAMS, Highfield Court said he had been concerned during the winter when the stream backed up from the culvert. The TOWN MAYOR said this had been thoroughly investigated and it was hoped that the problem had been eradicated.

MR EVANS, Banbury Road asked if it was possible to expand the recreation area in the town before it gets built on, eg the old allotment land etc. The TOWN MAYOR replied that most of the nearby land was privately owned. He also said that the Lake area was not all that well used. There had been various events organised and these had been poorly attended.

MRS JOAN VINCENT, Banbury Road commented that the play equipment displayed looked wonderful but asked what was being done on the private estates around the Town. She also said there was nothing for the older children. The TOWN MAYOR said the play equipment being looked at was suitable for 3-80 year olds. The Town Council was in the process of looking for facilities for the older age group and there was a committee appointed to look at all the play areas in the Town.

MR A WOOD, Johnson Avenue said he had been involved in the skateboard park at Turweston Road. COUNCILLOR BILLINGHAM said there had been a skateboard park at the Leisure Centre but this had had to be taken away because of vandalism. She questioned how much public money could be spent on such ventures and that was why no further money had been spent on the Turweston Road site.

SERGEANT PEARSON advised the public that there was a public meeting arranged for 26th March at 7 pm in the Town Hall. This was part of the national neighbourhood policing initiative. It was intended to hold these meetings on a quarterly basis. The public were encouraged to attend and to complete the cards in the Town Hall foyer. The items highlighted on these cards would be discussed at the meeting on 26th March 2007.

THE TOWN MAYOR then brought this meeting to a close but reminded everyone about the meetings with the Co-op architects on 27th March and the Police meeting on 26th March – both at the Town Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.10 pm